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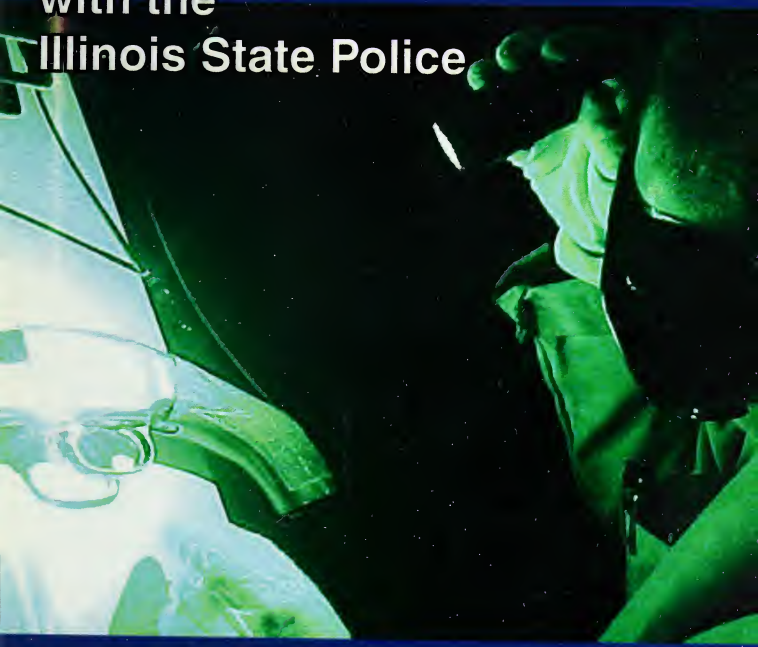
Choose a Forensic Science Career

with the Illinois State Police



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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois State Police

What does a Forensic Scientist do?

Forensic Scientists work in sophisticated crime laboratories each day on real investigations to examine, identify, evaluate, and objectively describe evidence from actual crimes. The work of Forensic Scientists produces clues to help track down criminals, free the innocent, and convict the guilty. People who join the Illinois State Police (ISP) as a Forensic Scientist Trainee become part of this exciting and rewarding profession. All of the scientific disciplines have been depicted in television shows like Forensic Files (A&E), CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (CBS), and The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science (Discovery Channel). Another source of information is our web site www.isp.state.il.us.

What are the eligibility requirements to become a Forensic Scientist Trainee?

Option A - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science.

Latent Prints

Identification and comparison of hidden impressions from sources like fingers, palms, feet, shoes, ears, lips, or the tread on vehicle tires.

Firearms & Toolmarks

Examination and comparison of fired bullets, discharged cartridges, guns, gunpowder patterns, and marks left by erased serial numbers in metal or by burglary tools such as a pry bar or screwdriver.

Questioned Documents

Identification and comparison of handwriting, typewriting, check writing, printed materials, rubber stamps, indented writing, and materials used to alter documents.

Option B - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science, including a minimum of 20 semester hours of course work in chemistry with a total of 60 semester hours of science course work.

Drug Chemistry
Identification of controlled substances and marijuana.

Trace Chemistry
Identification and comparison of materials from fires, explosions, paints, and glass.

Toxicology
Identification of the presence of drugs and poisons in tissue, blood, urine, and other body fluids.

Microscopy
Identification and comparison of hairs, fibers, woods, soils, building materials, insulation, and a broad group of miscellaneous materials referred to as "particulate unknowns."

Option C - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science, including course work in the three biology subspecialties of genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology, with a total of 60 semester hours of science course work.

Biology/DNA
Identification and comparison of physiological fluids and dried stains such as blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and saliva.

What does the position pay?

The starting salary for a Forensic Scientist Trainee can range from $2,881 to $4,154 per month. Trainees are paid to learn their profession.

How long is training?

Forensic Scientist Trainees receive comprehensive instruction in the use of the most advanced scientific technology and procedures for analyzing evidence. The length of training programs vary with the forensic disciplines.

Option A	Latent Prints	24 Months
	Firearms/Toolmarks	24 Months
	Questioned Documents	36 Months
Option B	Toxicology	18 Months
	Drug Chemistry	12 Months
	Microscopy	18 Months
	Trace Chemistry	23 Months
Option C	Forensic Biology/DNA	18 Months

What benefits are available to a Forensic Scientist Trainee?

- Holidays: 12 paid holidays per year
- Vacation: 10 paid days per year
- Personal Days: Three paid days off for personal matters
- Sick Leave: One day accumulating for each month's service
- Maternity/Paternity Leave: At the birth/adoption of a child, 20 consecutive working days off for the mother, and/or 15 consecutive working days off for the father
- Military Leave: The time required to comply with United States Armed Services and National Guard duty
- Family & Medical Leave: Up to 12 unpaid weeks off for Family and Medical Leave Act conditions
- Insurance: Health, life, vision, and dental; optional coverage for your family
- Group Long-Term Care Insurance: Option to purchase insurance to provide "custodial care" for a long period of time, due to chronic health conditions and/or physical disabilities
- Workers Compensation: Compensation for job-related injury or illness
- Unemployment Compensation: Partial payment for loss of wages
- Retirement Program: After six months, membership in the State Employees Retirement System, with eligibility to draw benefits after completion of eight years of service
- Deferred Compensation: Voluntary salary deferral
- Tuition Reimbursement: Payment at the state university rate for up to two approved

work-related courses, completed with passing grades, per semester, depending on available funding

- Sick Leave Bank: Emergency sick time resource available for catastrophic illness or injury; optional
- Wellness Program: Assistance obtaining a healthy lifestyle through professional advice related to nutritional, physical, mental, and emotional matters

Where does training take place?

All trainees spend one week at the Southern Illinois Forensic Science Centre in Carbondale for orientation. Thereafter, some will remain in Carbondale while some will be assigned to other regional laboratories with senior lead Forensic Scientists acting as training facilitators. Uniform classes and tests take place statewide by video conference, while facilitators provide day-to-day supervision.

How do I inquire about a Forensic Scientist Trainee position?

Internet: www.isp.state.il.us

Click on Employment, and look under **Forensics**

Write to: Illinois State Police Academy
Recruitment Section
3700 East Lake Shore Drive
Springfield, IL 62712-8639

Telephone: 217-785-0183 (outside Illinois) or
Toll free: 866-458-7667 (inside Illinois)

What steps are involved from application to employment?

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the ISP does not discriminate based on race, nationality, gender, or sexual preference.

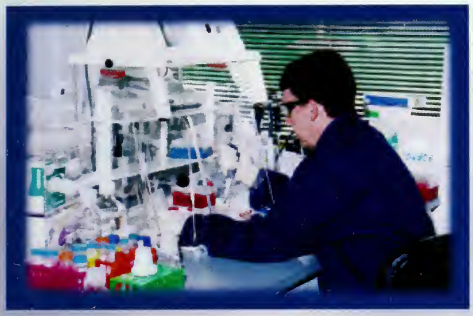
Option 1:

Mail your Forensic Scientist Trainee application (Examining Employment Applicaton - CMS 100) to the State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services (CMS). Thereafter, CMS will review your application to verify your eligibility and will inform you by letter if you are eligible to take the Forensic Scientist Trainee written qualifying examination.

Option 2:

CMS has implemented continuous testing for the Forensic Scientist Trainee title. Continous testing allows a qualified candidate to bring a completed CMS Examining/Employment Application (CMS 100) and a picture identification to a CMS test site. Applicants may test the same day and receive their grade before leaving the test site. For information on CMS test site locations, please go to the ISP web site or contact CMS at 217-782-6921.

- Upon completion of the examination, CMS staff will check your test and grade it "A", "B", "C", or "Not Qualified". The ISP normally only interviews and hires applicants who receive an "A" grade. If you did not receive an "A" grade and wish to retake the test, you must submit a new application and make arrangements to take the same option test after 30 days.
- Several weeks before the ISP plans to conduct interviews, the department will ask CMS for a list of those eligible to be interviewed for available Forensic Scientist Trainee positions. CMS will send the list of "A" grade applicants to the ISP.
- The ISP may mail you an invitation to interview. Assuming you interview well, the ISP will ask you to take a polygraph examination, and will follow up a clear polygraph with a background investigation.
- Contingent upon a clear background investigation report, the ISP may offer you a position as a Forensic Scientist Trainee.



Who can I contact to talk about my interest in a Forensic Scientist Trainee position?

You may contact any of the following Illinois State Police laboratories:

Carbondale	618-529-6500
Chicago	312-433-8000
Fairview Heights	618-394-6000
Joliet	815-740-3543
Morton	309-284-6500
Research & Development	217-557-2399
Rockford	815-987-7419
Springfield	217-782-4975
DNA Indexing Lab	217-782-4975
Westchester	708-338-7800

You may also contact the Illinois State Police Forensic Sciences Command Headquarters at 217-782-4649 to discuss becoming a Forensic Scientist and working in our extensive laboratory system.

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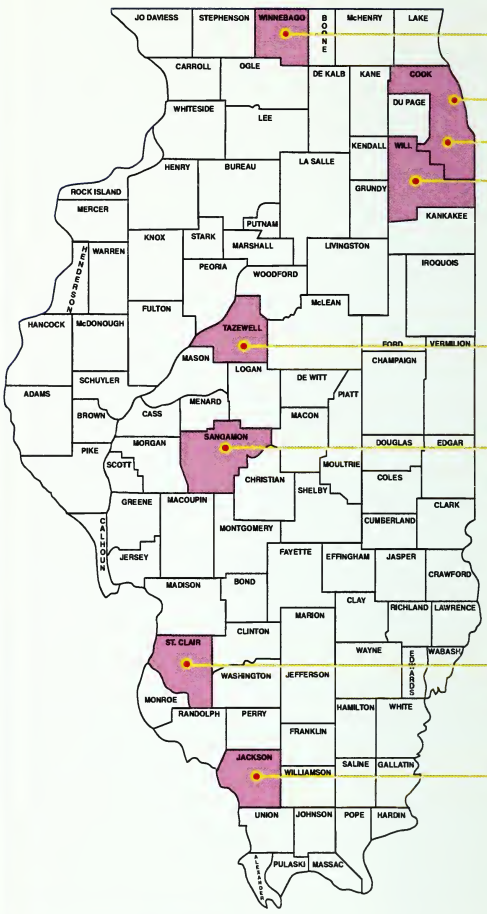

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